DESCRIPTION: Study of quantitative and qualitative methods of building knowledge for social work and the ethical use of research in professional practice.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of the term, students will be able to:
1. Understand social work research as an integral part of informed practice.
2. Explain the research function in both micro and macro practice.
3. Discuss the specific stages of the social work research process:
   a. Formulation of practice questions and hypotheses
   b. Sampling
   c. Principles of Protection of Human Subjects
   d. Data collection
   e. Processing of data
   f. Interpretation of statistical results and testing of hypotheses
   g. Report writing
4. Identify sources of secondary social welfare data and applications to community-based practice.
5. Identify data collection methods for practice evaluation and needs assessment.
6. Utilize the experimental designs for social work practice.
7. Understand the basics of the usage of SPSS for data analysis.
8. Discuss beginning level statistical methods and their applications in describing and analyzing the variables in practice.
9. Understand, critically evaluate and make use of social work research as presented by others.
10. Discuss the ethical issues of dealing with minority populations (women, racial and cultural minorities, handicapped, elderly, and the poor) for social work research.
11. Conduct different types of social work research (quantitative/qualitative).

EVALUATION OF GRADING AND LEARNING: The final course grade is computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>February 7, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>March 28, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>April 11, 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation/SPSS Exercise</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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100 Point Total
1. **EXAMINATION:** There will be one exam. The exam questions will be taken from the materials both covered in the class and assigned for reading. The exam may have any combination of true/false, multiple choice, matching, completion, and brief response essay questions.

2. **RESEARCH PAPER:** Each student will be required to prepare a simple social work research proposal in the form of a research paper. This research proposal is designed to help students integrate the basics of research into practice and engage in critical thinking. The guidelines for the research paper will be provided to each student and the specifics of this assignment will be discussed in class. Due 4/11/05.

3. **ARTICLE REVIEW:** Each student will be required to select, analyze, and critique an article from a scholarly research journal. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor.

4. **CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Regular class attendance is expected. Your participation in each stage of the research class is essential. Students who do not complete the SPSS workshop will not receive participation points.

   A final course grade will be based upon the total number of points accumulated on the above evaluations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>B+ = 87-89 (3.25)</th>
<th>C+ = 77-79 (2.25)</th>
<th>D+ = 67-69 (1.25)</th>
<th>F = 59 or less (0.00)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100 (4.0)</td>
<td>B = 84-86 (3.00)</td>
<td>C = 74-76 (2.00)</td>
<td>D = 64-66 (1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94 (3.75)</td>
<td>B- = 80-83 (2.75)</td>
<td>C- = 70-73 (1.75)</td>
<td>D- = 60-63 (.75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

**OTHER course readings will be required.** The interests of the class members will guide the selection of these readings.

**CLASS POLICIES:**

1. All assignments are due on the scheduled date unless the student has extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from meeting the deadline. If the reason that the student has not met the paper deadline does not meet extenuating circumstances, then 10 points will be subtracted for each week that an assignment is late.

2. Students are expected to demonstrate courtesy and respect for the instructor and for peers. Differences in points of view expressed constructively, as the basis of academic freedom are encouraged.

3. While it is not expected that students will resort to academic dishonesty, students must be aware that any evidence of dishonesty/cheating will result in a failing grade for the course and will be subject to other consequences inherent in the School of Social Work.

4. It is expected that students attend all classes. Social work is a collegial profession. It is essential that you come to class having read the days material so that you can meaningfully contribute to the discussion. Excessive absences (more than 3) will result in a letter grade reduction (Example from a B to a B-).

For additional information on general course policies, please see both the Social Work Student Handbook and The Golden Rule Handbook for UCF Students.
Course Outline and Schedule

Week 1 - 1/10/05: Social Work Practice and Social Work Research
Content
1. Informed practice and social work research.
2. Research functions in micro and macro practice.
3. Accountability and social work practice.
Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach, Chapters 1 & 2
2. Reserve readings: TBA
Learning Methods:
1. Lecture - discussion
2. Small group activity: Research and battered women

Week 2 - 1/17/05: An Introduction to the Scientific Research Process
Content:
1. Overview of research process and the research proposal.
   a. Introduction
   b. Problem statement
   c. Review of literature
   d. Study questions/hypotheses
   e. Research design
   f. Discussion of findings
   g. Implications for social policies and programs
   h. Conclusions/Summary
2. Identifying areas for study
Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach, Chapter 3.
2. Reserve Readings: TBA
Learning Methods:
1. Lecture – discussion
2. Small group activity: “Generating research questions” (Domestic Violence)

Week 3 - 1/24/05: Research and Ethics
Content:
1. Ethical issues in social work research and NASW Code of Ethics
2. The politics of social work research, methods employed, costs & use of the outcome
3. Minorities and social work research
4. UCF Human Subjects Review
Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach -Chapters 6 &7
2. Reserve Readings: TBA
Learning Methods:
1. Lecture - discussion
2. Article critique: “Adolescent girls in cyberspace”
3. Video: “The Eye of the Storm”
Week 4- 1/31/05 Conceptualization of Research Questions and Operationalization of Variables
Content:
2. Operational definitions.
3. Conceptualization
4. Definitions and research purposes.
5. Operationalization of choices.

Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach -Chapters 8 and 10
2. Reserve Readings: TBA

Learning Methods:
1. Lecture – discussion
2. Article review “Impact of Race on Supervision”

Week 5- 2/7/05 – Exam 1 and Research Question (area for study) due

Week 6: 2/14/05 Sampling
Content
1. Sampling concepts and terminologies.
2. Probability sampling theory.
3. Types of probability sampling.
4. Non-probability sampling.
5. Problems of sampling.

Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach, Chapter 9
2. Reserve Readings: TBA

Learning Methods
1. Lecture - discussion
2. Bibliographic instruction

Week 7 – 2/21/05: Measurement
Content
1. Definitions of measurement
2. Levels of measurement: Nominal, Ordinal, Interval, and Ratio
3. Single or composite indicators
5. Criteria for measurement quality
   a. Reliability
      i. Validity

Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach, Chapter 10
2. Reserve Readings: TBA

Learning Methods
1. Lecture discussion
2. Classroom Activity: “Measurement of variables”
Week 8 – 2/28/05: Measurement Instruments
Content
1. Guidelines for asking questions.
2. Using scales

Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach Chapter 10, and Chapter 11.
2. Reserve Readings: TBA

Learning Methods
1. Lecture - Discussion
2. Classroom activity: “Using Standardized Scales”

Week 9 – 3/7/05: Quantitative Methodology, Causal Inference and Group Designs
Content
1. Experimental design.
2. Quasi-experimental designs.
3. Internal validity.
4. External validity.

Readings:
1. Yegidis and Weinbach : Chapter 8
2. Reserve Readings: TBA Examples of Group Designs

Learning Methods:
1. Lecture - discussion
2. Handout: Classical experimental design

Week 10- 3/14/05 SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS

Week 11 & 12 – 3/21/05 & 3/28/05: Survey Research, Field Research & Qualitative Methods
Content
1. Topics appropriate to survey research.
2. Self-administered questionnaire.
3. Interview surveys.
4. Telephone surveys.
5. Topics appropriate to field research.
6. The various roles of the observer.
7. Preparing for the field.
8. Sampling in field research.
9. Recording observations.
10. Data analysis.

Readings –
1. Yegidis and Weinbach Chapter 7
2. Reserved Readings : TBA Examples of Survey Research & Qualitative Designs

Learning Methods:
1. Lecture - discussion.
2. Article Review exercise
Week 13 –4/4/05: Processing Data  
Coding data  
1. Developing a spreadsheet  
2. Accessing and commanding the SPSS system.  
3. Basic statistical procedures  
Readings:  
1. Yegidis and Weinbach , Chapter 11  
2. **Reserve Readings**: TBA  
Learning Methods  
1. Lecture - discussion.  
2. Article Review Assignment due  
3. **SPSS/PC EXERCISE**: There will be an exercise(s) designed to expose students to the statistical package SPSS and all students are expected to participate.  

Week 14 –4/11/05: Interpreting Descriptive Statistics and Tables  
Content  
1. Descriptive Statistics  
2. Measures of Central Tendency  
3. Multivariate analysis  
4. Measures of dispersion  
5. Statistical significance  
6. Statistical power analysis  
Readings:  
1. Yegidis and Weinbach, Chapter 12  
2. **Reserve Readings**: Program Evaluation  
Learning Methods:  
1. Lecture - Discussion  
2. Statistical Assignment: Create Data File and Categorize Variables.  
3. **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**  

Week 15 -4/18/05: Evaluation Research  
Content:  
1. Basic program evaluation process.  
3. Outcome evaluation  
4. Process evaluation (focus groups)  
5. End of semester recap  
Readings:  
1. Yegidis and Weinbach, Chapter 13  
2. **Reserve Readings**: TBA  
Learning Methods  
1. Lecture – discussion  
2. Course evaluation
Bibliography


Haworth Press.